

Store Closes To-Day at 1 P. M.—Employees' Half Holiday

Miller & Rhoads

Summer Dresses Reduced

Fifty bargains in High-Class Summer Dresses, which means that fifty women can each get a fine suit at half its cost.

All are new and stylish.

All of our \$26.50
Cloth Dresses nowAll of our \$32.50
Cloth Dresses nowAll of our \$40
Cloth Dresses now

\$13.25 \$16.25 \$20

BRIDGE UNSAFE IF
TOO HEAVILY LOADED

Engineers Show Importance of
Building a New Structure
at Once.

TWO CITIES SLOW TO ACT

Public Not Satisfied With Con-
ditions—Traffic Badly
Delayed.

Responding to a request from the James River Free Bridge Commissioners, the Common Council on Monday night passed a joint resolution providing for the appointment of a special committee of three Councilmen and two Aldermen, with the presidents of the two branches to confer with a similar committee from the city of Manchester with regard to the advisability of repairing or renewing the Free Bridge. The Board of Aldermen will act on the resolution next Tuesday night.

Recent conditions are bringing about a state of uncertainty in the travel between the two cities, and doubt of the safety of both of the wagon bridges is greatly retarding trade conditions, and producing much discontent on both sides of the river.

Steps looking to the erection of a new and commodious highway between the north and south banks of the James would be hailed with general acclamation.

Reports Not Reassuring.

Especially in regard to the free bridge is there unrest and general distrust of its carrying qualities, the reports of engineers appointed to examine the structure being not at all reassuring. The stringent regulations in regard to travel in an effort to keep weight from concentrating on any separate span, has not only added to the distrust of the bridge, but at the same time has caused many delays and exasperated merchants and others having business between the two cities. When the continued swaying and vibration of the separate panels caused general complaint, the James River Bridge Commission directed its consulting engineer, Mr. F. B. Isaacs, to make an examination, and at his suggestion, Messrs. Calvin Whitely and P. W. Scarborough were associated in the examination. The report filed by Mr. Scarborough shows that communication between the two cities is precarious, and bears out a letter from Mr. Preston Carson, printed in this paper before the engineer's investigation.

Mr. Scarborough holds that no precaution is possible to absolutely insure the older spans against the danger of a sudden collapse under certain contingencies.

The engineers were in recommending the immediate rebuilding of the eight oldest spans, the estimate of cost being \$115,000. Mr. Scarborough said in his report:

"Each skeleton diagram and stress sheet for the eight spans built in 1876. These stresses are calculated for a live load of eighty pounds per foot over the entire roadway and sidewalks. Such a loading might at any time come on the bridge in case of fire in the vicinity, or in any other event that would attract a large crowd. Under this loading, which is 1 foot above, may at any time be placed upon the bridge, the bridge is positively unsafe, and steps should be taken at once to remove the structure. During the time required to perfect plans, fabricate and erect the material, men should be stationed at each end of the bridge to space traffic and regulate speed. If the bridge is not removed, the traffic can be handled with safety and safety for the limited time necessary to arrange for and erect the new structure."

Eight Spans Should Go.

Mr. Isaacs, in his report made subsequently to that of Mr. Scarborough, substantially agrees with the other engineers in regard to the condition of the structure, recommending that the eight oldest spans be immediately replaced by a new bridge, and that the remainder be at once substantially braced and strengthened.

Mr. Scarborough's recommendations have been carried out by the commission with regard to policing the bridge, and restricting travel, making it a one-way traffic, from side to side with a heavy load, as no two loads or two street-cars are allowed on a single span. The congestion of travel and the general unwillingness to use Mayo's bridge, condemned by the engineers of the street-car company, have led to a general demand for a complete new bridge of adequate width to accommodate the travel, and of such unquestioned strength as will increase rather than retard the traffic.

DR. SMITH TO LECTURE

Howitzer to Hear Many Speakers on War.

Beginning a series of lectures, arranged for by Captain Myers and officers of the Howitzer, Rev. James Power Smith will next Tuesday night deliver an address on "The War," his subject being "Stonewall Jackson and the Part He Took in the Civil War." The lecture takes place on the regular drill night, and the soldiers are ordered to appear in uniform. Each member is allowed to bring one friend, and the lecture will be extended to city officials and friends of the battery.

NEGROES RUN OFF
WITH AUTOMOBILE

Bluecoats Give Chase, but Find
Dr. Parker's Machine in Barn,
Safe and Sound.

It was early in the morning, and the moon was shining brightly, when some negro chauffeur passing by the home of Dr. William H. Parker, on East Broad Street, yesterday saw a lone machine standing near the curb, and became possessed with the idea of testing its speed. He was accompanied by another of the same species of human kind, and together the two took charge of it. In a moment they were skidding along in the moonlight at a pace that the very mention of which would make one's head turn dizzy. The machine was registered to make fifty-five miles an hour, and when they saw two bicycle policemen riding hard behind them they made this a little more.

For a time it was an even chase between the automobile thieves and the bluecoats, but the machine, run by automatic machinery, could make better time than the cops peddling with their legs. It was a beautiful night, legs have a certain amount of endurance, while the speed of an automobile depends mostly on the supply of gas. This one had plenty in store, and the faster the police sped on their wheels the faster went the amateur chauffeur.

Finally, it became nip and tuck between the two. But the machine in which the negroes rode was high geared, and they gradually drew away from the pursuing police. When the latter arrived at the barn where the auto was supposed to be they found it resting comfortably, but the chauffeur and his companion were gone. They were not captured.

MASON CASE CONTINUED

Will Be Tried This Morning by Squire Lonnie Graves. Acting for Justice Griffith.

Mr. Lewis P. Mason was called to the Police Court yesterday morning to answer to the charge of attempting to take the life of Mr. M. T. Teale, manager of the Tidewater Trust Company, but the case was continued until today. Mr. Mason was called in by Mr. William T. Griffith, the brother of the justice, on June 24, 1907.

On evidence in the case was heard. Statements as to whether Mr. Mason really pointed the gun at Mr. Teale are conflicting. Mr. Mason denying and Mr. Teale affirming that the gun was cocked and pointed at the manager of the company.

Mr. Teale claims that Mr. Mason paid \$17.00 out of a \$300 judgment on the case, and that he had no other recourse than to collect it by due proceedings.

Dr. Willis Improving.

Dr. W. A. Griffith, who was operated on for appendicitis at the Memorial Hospital Monday, is improving.

MOUSE IN MERRY WIDOW
JUMPED ON WOMAN'S NOSE

Came Quickly From Meshes of Her Veil, Creating Alarm
and Wild Calls for Police—Excitedly Quelled When
Terrified Little Rodent Was Crushed to Death.

"It's awfully hot and I'm so tired. Think I'll go out and get a soft drink." The young stenographer on Main Street rushed yesterday for her merry widow, which covered half the wall, and for her mouse-colored veil, which dropped in pretty folds.

Drawing out half a dozen spikes—called haphis in ladies' lingo—she adjusted the hat on her muchly coiled hair, and then thrust the spikes in, one by one. Then came the mouse-colored veil. This she fastened on top, with its graceful folds depending from the back, and was proceeding to tie under her rounded chin when something happened.

Something darted out from one of the crevices left between her hair and the hat and leaped toward her, gapping mouth. The aperture was closed with a snap, and the terrified mouse, for that was what it was—scrambled around inside of the mouse-colored veil, seeking to escape the awful doom that threatened the young career.

From the cavern that he had just escaped came the most awful sound he had ever heard. The noise increased, and in a second his high perch had switched to the floor, and the meshes of the veil, which he took for a stand on the top of a retreating nose, ready to flee or give battle to the next intruder.

But the screams from the distressed

ELECT SHOEMAKER
NEW SERGEANT
HIS CASH REGISTER

Sergeant Hulce, Once Chief of Police, Retired at His Own Request.

TYLER SHIFTS TO DESK DUTY

Galbraith Picked from Large Field and Made Private on Force.

After the names of a number of applicants were considered and discussed, with various mention of their merits, Officer R. L. Shoemaker, of the First District, was elected sergeant at the meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners last night, vice Sergeant Hulce, whose request for retirement was granted.

Sergeant Shoemaker has been on the force nearly twenty years, and has always proved a valuable, efficient and faithful officer, as is testified by his promotion. His best in recent time has been on Main Street, and he is well known to the business men, having offices between Ninth and Fourteenth Streets.

There were many applicants for the position, and though it is not to their discredit that the other applicants were not chosen, the credit of Officer Shoemaker that he was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Hulce to Receive Pension.

Sergeant E. P. Hulce, once chief of the Richmond police force, will be placed on the retired list, and will receive a pension from the Police Benevolent Association.

Sergeant Hulce's retirement caused a vacancy on the desk in the Second Police Station, which was filled by Mr. H. H. Galbraith, of Clay Ward, was chosen out of a hundred or more applicants to fill the position of private made vacant by the two promotions. He is a man of about 35 years of age, and is said to be of exemplary habits. The selection of men for the various positions will be generally satisfactory.

CAT BURIED ALIVE

Thrown Into Pipe Leading to Water Meter and Cried for Three Days.

Opening the cap on the pipe that leads to the water meter near the Passenger and Power Company's office on Main Street, was started yesterday when a half-starved kitten, probably not more than two or three months old. How it got into the pipe is a mystery. The only plausible theory is that it was put there by some innocent person who wished to get rid of it. The kitten was found in the pipe, and when it was taken out, it was found to be dead. It was buried in the pipe, and it cried for three days.

NIGHT WITH POLICE

Charles Hightner Is Charged With Theft of

Charles Hightner (colored) was arrested last night on a charge of stealing a pair of trousers and \$2.50 in cash from Robert Jackson, Gibson, alias "Hog-eye" (colored), was arrested on a charge of assaulting and threatening a man named Green. Mary Green had Lucy Galmo arrested in a charge of assaulting her.

Jesse Long (colored) was locked up on a charge of being disorderly and throwing rocks on the premises of T. Pritchard; Nannie Mims (colored) was arrested on a charge of stealing a pair of trousers from Brown Graves.

LOCKJAW KILLS BOY

Stuck Nail in His Foot and Died After Terrible Suffering.

Following five days of intense suffering, Frederick Stokes, the fifteen-year-old son of Mr. W. W. Stokes, died yesterday of lockjaw. The boy was brought in from the residence of his parents, No. 2025 West Main Street.

About a week ago while helping his father, a plasterer, he stuck a nail in his foot. At the time he was not thought to be serious, but after a few days he became very ill, and he died in great agony, although everything possible was done for him. The body will be sent this morning to the family burying ground.

Important Real Estate Sales.

Messrs. J. B. Eland & Company, real estate agents, sold yesterday afternoon for the Third Street Trust Company, No. 15 North Third Street, a property No. 15 North Third Street for \$5,575, and the property No. 517 Second Street for \$2,375.

The same firm also sold yesterday for the same company, a property No. 1517 Grove Avenue for \$7,000 to Mr. H. C. Sims, who will occupy it as a home. No. 14134 West Main Street was sold for \$3,190 to a woman as an investment.

Dashed Through Smoke, Then
Police, Retired at His Own
Request.

Only Two Cents.

Lewis's Barbershop, on Main Street, Badly Damaged by Blaze Last Night.

Fire resulting in damages to the amount of \$2,000, broke out in the basement of No. 328 East Main Street last night at about 10 o'clock. The lower floor of the building was occupied by R. D. Lewis, a colored barber, and James Mitchell, a bootblack. The owner of the property, lived with her family in the second story.

Dense clouds of smoke issuing from the basement were first noticed by Mr. Clarence Gilbert, who turned in a still alarm. The Cary Street engine house responded and soon had a plug stream playing in the basement from which the smoke was pouring thick, though no flame could be seen. It was soon apparent that this would not be sufficient to extinguish the fire and a general alarm was turned in. In a short while two engines were pumping streams of water into the building.

Cat Buried to Death.

The damage was confined mostly to the floor and pictures of the barber shop, although the walls of the second story were considerably charred and blackened by smoke and flames. The entire lower floor and the basement were flooded with water, and a good part of the wood converted into charcoal.

While the smoke was at its thickest, Mitchell, the bootblack, emerged on the run, with his cash register under his arm. Having placed this important fixture in a safe place, he complacently crossed his arms, saying that he thought his damages would amount to about a "couple of cents."

Mrs. Belnot was more inclined to grieve over the loss of a pet cat than the damage to her building. About two inches of water was standing in the cellar of the R. L. Christian Company, next door, where valuable goods were stored. The insurance on the damaged building was placed through Messrs. T. L. Alford & Son.

SPELLBINDERS MUST PAY

Campaign Speakers Not to Travel This Year on Free Passes.

Spellbinders in the coming presidential campaign, according to railroad men, will have to take from the campaign fund something like \$500,000 more than has been their wont in years gone by. This extra call on the campaign fund is due to the passage of the Hepburn bill, which prohibits the issuance or acceptance of passes under the penalty of fines of from \$200 to \$2,000. In the 1904 campaign free passes, valued at \$1,600,000, were distributed to political speakers.

Some of the spellbinders will furnish their own transportation, but the great majority will have to call on the campaign money bag to cover this expense. In Virginia the law is as strict perhaps as in any other State of the Union, prohibiting the issuance of passes under one holding public office. As a matter of fact, it is almost an impossibility for any one who is not an employee of the railroads to travel without paying the regular fare.

EXAMINE ALL TRAINMEN

Employees Called by It, F. and P. at All Hours to Show Knowledge of Rules.

Examinations as to knowledge of the rules of the railroad have been in progress at the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac shops for some time, engineers, brakemen, firemen and train hands being called on at unexpected hours to tell what they know of signals and train orders. One brakeman was called from his bed at 5 o'clock in the morning to answer a series of questions before taking his daily run.

General Manager C. W. Culp said last night that such examinations are now being conducted were common on all roads, and had been in practice on the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac for many years. "We take on a new man, and after a few weeks we give him an examination in the rules of the road, to see whether he is a safe man or not," said Mr. Culp. "It is necessary for us to continually ascertain whether the men are familiar with the rules and are carrying them out strictly."

THE WEATHER

Forecast: Virginia—Fair Thursday and Friday; warmer Friday; light variable winds.

North Carolina—Local rains Thursday and Friday; light variable winds.

LOCAL WEATHER REPORT.

July 8, 1908.

S. A. M. temperature..... 75
Humidity..... 74
Wind, direction..... N.
Wind, velocity..... N.
Rainfall..... Cloudy
Excess in temperature to-day..... 0.00
12 noon temperature..... 77
3 P. M. temperature..... 80
Maximum temperature up to 5 P. M. 84
Minimum temperature up to 5 P. M. 74
Mean temperature..... 79
Normal temperature..... 79
Excess in temperature to-day..... 0
Excess in temperature to-day..... 0

Accum. excess in temperature since January 1st..... 98
Accum. excess in temperature since January 1st..... 412
Accum. excess in rainfall since January 1st..... 620

CONDITIONS IN IMPORTANT CITIES.

Place, Ther. H.T. Weather.

Asheville..... 74 80 Cloudy
Augusta..... 74 82 Cloudy
Atlanta..... 80 86 Clear
Buffalo..... 66 68 Clear
Chicago..... 70 76 Clear
Cincinnati..... 76 80 Clear
Cleveland..... 76 76 Clear
Detroit..... 68 72 Clear
Jacksonville..... 74 82 Rain
Kansas City..... 76 82 Clear
New Orleans..... 88 88 Rain
Oklahoma City..... 84 84 Clear
Pittsburgh..... 70 74 Clear
Raleigh..... 72 82 Rain
Savannah..... 72 82 Rain
St. Louis..... 72 82 Rain
Tampa..... 82 82 Clear
Washington..... 72 82 P. cloudy
Wilmington..... 80 82 P. cloudy

MINUTAE ALMANAC.

July 9, 1908.

Sun rises..... 4:58
Moon sets..... 7:31
Moon rises..... 4:58

PLANTERS ON JAMES RIVER
DECLARE WEATHER IS FINE

High Temperature After Soaking Rain Means Great Corn
Crop in Fall, Provided Floods Do Not Sweep Over
the Fields—"False Banks" Bloom.

While the people, especially in the cities, are sizing hot and "cussing out" the summer weather, their souls in the country are content to let well enough alone, for in their parlance "growing weather" is a good, soaking rain, followed by a spell that cools the thermometer well up into the nineties. This is just what they have had, with the result that corn and other crops have fairly jumped.

Especially along the James River the weather has behaved splendidly. There has been plenty of rain, and thus far the prospects now are that one of the largest crops of corn ever raised in the Valley will be housed this fall. Already the corn on the "false banks" is more than six feet tall on most of the farms, having been spared the spring fresh, which for the last three years has taken a root and branch. The fertility of these banks is such that, although the crops are washed away on an average of about three years in four, the farmers plant each year, knowing that if they succeed in getting a full crop on the fourth year they will be amply repaid for the loss of the other three.

ENTERS SUIT FOR
FALSE ARREST

Linwood Williams Wants \$5,000
Damage for Humiliation in
Police Court.

C. Linwood Williams filed notice of suit in the Law and Equity Court yesterday against G. B. Cooke, a Broad Street merchant, alleging false arrest. In the declaration filed by Messrs. Smith, Moncre and Gordon, it is alleged that Williams was arrested on the afternoon of June 28th on a warrant sworn out before Squire Purdie by Cooke charging him with stealing money and goods to the value of about \$20. In the Police Court no evidence was brought against Williams, and he was acquitted.

Williams claims that in his arrest and imprisonment in a police station and trial in an open police court, he was subjected to great humiliation, public disgrace, scandal and infamy, by reason of this false arrest and imprisonment. Those present in the Police Court said it was a case of mistaken identity, that some unknown person had "film-flamed" Cooke, and that Cooke had made a mistake. Williams clearly proved that he was not in the city at the time the skin game was worked.

Continue Brothers Case.

The case of H. L. Brothers, charged with assaulting H. J. Carr, was continued to the 18th, and the accused was bailed in the sum of \$300 for his appearance on that date. Brothers, who Carr made offensive remarks about his wife, and that he acted properly in resenting them.

COURT SUBDUES
MURDER THREAT

Father of Palmura Girl Swore
Vengeance in Event of Morra's
Acquittal.

Without leaving the box, the jury in the Hastings Court yesterday acquitted Joseph Morra, charged with assaulting Laura Palmura, a twelve-year-old girl, on February 21st. The girl gave the date of the offense, and the manager of the Alibi and Casino, where she was employed, was introduced with his pay roll memoranda, and testified that she was at work on that day. Commonwealth's Attorney Folkes told the jury that he was satisfied that a case had not been made out against Morra, and the jury at once took that view.

During the course of the trial, Father of the girl, was reported to have said to a friend in court, "If the jury acquits that man I shall kill him when he reaches the street."

Healed before Judge Witt he declared he had spoken in the heat of passion, and asked the judge not to put him under bond. He was allowed to go, and Detective Captain Tomlinson saw to it that he went directly home, without creating a disturbance. The police secured Morra's home, out of abundant precaution.

Falls from Street Car.

Mrs. Martha Harley, of No. 614 Buchanan Street, fell from an Oakwood and Broad Street car yesterday night, and was badly hurt. She sustained many bruises but it is not thought that she is seriously injured. Her condition is improved.

SAND PILE PLAYERS WANT
SPORT IN CAPITOL SQUARE

Amateur Sculptors in Monroe Park Show Need of Same
Facilities in Congested Sections Down Town—Would
Not Damage State Property.

Many of those interested in the health and pleasure of the city children during the hot weather are wondering why the sand-piles which the youngsters seem to enjoy so much in Monroe Park have not been provided in the other parks of the city, especially those further down town. There seems to be nothing that the little folk enjoy more than playing in these sand-piles, and as far as the layman can judge, few recreations are more conducive to their health and strength. Every evening the little heap in Monroe Park is working overtime, being converted into many fantastic shapes, prompted by the versatility of the juvenile mind. It provides a playground that is cool, healthy, clean and free from dust.

Discussing the question yesterday, one of Richmond's citizens, who has long been interested in the welfare of the children, especially those whose parents are unable to take them to the country in the summer months, said: "The sand-pile is undoubtedly the healthiest place upon which the children can play. They like it better

than the grass, because it is cooler, and can be converted into all shapes, according to the child's fancy. "I have often watched them at play on the overworked piles in Monroe Park making tunnels, caves and grotesque figures, showing as serious interest in their work as a sculptor. "Having noticed the enjoyment of the children in this one park where the city officials have not taken steps to have it placed in all of the parks of the city, The cost would be trifling and the good resulting would in my opinion, be great. The Capitol square would be a splendid place for several large piles, being near the congested districts. It would be accessible to a vast number of children to whom it would be as near an outing in the country as anything they ever experienced. It has been said that the plan is for a good one on account of the fact that the sand would be scattered over the walks by the children. But with the large and efficient force that is provided for the Capitol grounds at least there should be small objection to this feature."

Another good point for the farmer in the 1908 weather is the fact that the rain, and the resulting high water, is still standing, the farmers begin to think that they will reap an average yield, often as much as twenty barrels to the acre. Of course, this corn is harvested as soon as it will do to cut, and when it is possible is carried to higher ground to harden before housing. It has often happened, however, that a sudden high water sweeps it away bodily even after it has been cut and set up in shocks.

Channel Open for Vessels at
Low Water Up to Old Dominion
Docks.

Reports submitted by the City Engineer to the James River Improvement Committee at its meeting yesterday noon showed that the harbor had never before been in such excellent condition as at present, there being a clear channel of eighteen feet of water at low tide up to the Old Dominion Docks.

Mr. Bolling reported that during the month of June the city dredge had removed 3,200 square yards of mud, sand and rock. The government channel below the city is kept to an open depth of eighteen feet, and the success of the work of the past spring makes it possible to dock at Richmond any vessel which can come up the river beyond the point where the United States government work is now being prosecuted. An ultimate depth of twenty-two feet is projected.

The committee passed a resolution, requesting the City Engineer's office to prepare a full schedule of the work done by the city in the harbor in recent years, with the cost and figures, showing the former condition and what real improvements have been accomplished. The engineer was also asked to file with this statement a survey of the harbor, showing its present and ultimate needs for the guidance of the committee.

An insurance policy of \$15,000 on the city dock was renewed.

Interest in the project to complete the Auditorium by installing a heating plant and ceiling and finishing the interior has grown rapidly since the positive announcement of the dates of the Chapman evangelistic campaign. While there are members of the Council who believe that the city will ultimately be called on to erect a complete auditorium, the building for the housing of great conventions, the subject is necessarily far in the future, and with the obligations the city now has, is not to be considered. The project of the business organizations and church authorities interested in the Chapman meetings is for the immediate completion of the present structure, at a cost not exceeding \$12,000, to be used until such a time as the city can provide more suitable arrangements. Chairman Wood, of the Finance Committee, received the following petitions from Richmond organizations yesterday with regard to the completion of the Auditorium:

Resolved, That the Chamber of Commerce, through its convention committee, petition the Council of Richmond to provide a sufficient sum to improve the city Auditorium to the extent that is necessary to make the building adequate and comfortable in every particular for large gatherings.

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CITY URGED TO